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27 March 1954

Guided missiles -- proposed NIE machinery

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Method of Procedure for Producing the NIE on Guided Missiles

1. Augment Board of National Estimates by the ad hoc appointment of AD/SI and an appropriate number of outside consultants.

2. O/SI and O/NE staff draft terms of reference for Board consideration.

It is understood that the terms of reference would include entries in the areas of Soviet politics, economics, and strategy as well as in the pivotal areas of Soviet pure science, guided missiles research, development, and series production.

3. Board terms of reference to IAC agencies

It is understood that, as per paragraph 2, all IAC agencies (except possibly the FBI) will have an interest and that some of the IAC agencies will have more than one of their intelligence components involved (e.g.; DIA's O/NE, O/SI, and O/NE will each have a role; O-2 may want to have its scientific and technical section and another section represented).

4. Board meets with IAC agency representatives to discuss terms of reference and best method of procedure for producing this paper.

My recommendation for producing the paper is as follows:

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(1) establish an appropriate number of task teams - including at a minimum one for the scientific and technical phase and one for the economic phase. I recommend, however, that there be task teams also for the political and strategic phases.

(2) Task Team Chairmen could be

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(a) Chairman from JAEIC for S/T TT (suggest)

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(b) Chairman from EIC for Economic TT (suggest)

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(c) Chairman from OIR for Political TT

(d) Chairman from Defense for Strategic TT

(3) Task Team chairmen (and/or entire Task Teams) meet regularly (or as appropriate) with each other and with Board to assure an integration of thinking and the allocation of new work responsibilities as new teams appear.

(4) Task Teams produce contributions by a given date.

(5) Staff drafts paper

(6) Board reviews paper

(7) Board and IAC agency representatives (TT chairmen and their top assistants) coordinate paper for presentation to the IAC.

NOTE: The task before the IAC is to produce a paper on the first ground which will be as adequate as the JAEIC paper now is after a number of casual exercises.

It should not be forgotten that the present JAEIC paper is as good as it is because in its background lies a multitude of satisfactorily resolved collateral questions of great difficulty; priority of Soviet effort in the atomic energy field; Soviet Navy; economic factors, etc.

The present task requires that equally difficult collateral questions be solved and be solved simultaneously with the main question, e.g., Soviet capabilities in the guided missiles field.

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